

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

**Claims Listing**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the magnetically attractive material is present in the test strip at one or more locations at one end of the test strip.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the magnetically attractive material is a tape affixed to the test strip.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein the tape comprises iron.

Claims 6-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A method of aligning or orienting ~~the a~~ a test strip of ~~claim 1~~, comprising exposing the test strip to a magnetic field,

wherein the test strip is substantially flat and has a rectangular shape such that the test strip possesses two short edges of a first length and two long edges of a second length, the second length being longer than the first length and a magnetically attractive material is present in a zone on the test strip that is located such that the distance from the

zone to one of the two short edges is shorter than the distance from the zone to the other of the two short edges, and

wherein exposure of the test strip to the magnetic field causes a specific spatial alignment or orientation of the test strip so that the short edge having a shorter distance from the zone is closer to the magnetic field than the other of the two short edges.

Claims 17-23. (Cancelled).

24. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising applying an analyte to a specific desired location on the test strip, wherein the specific desired location on the test strip is determined by the specific spatial alignment or orientation of the test strip in response to the magnetic field.